



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS CONTINUE TO RISE

DECEMBER FIGURES SHOW MORE TENNESSEE CHILDREN RECEIVING SUPPORT

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The Tennessee Department of Human Services collected six million more dollars in child support in December 2003 than in December 2002. Nearly \$36 million were collected for Tennessee children versus \$30.2 million from the same period last year.

Human Services' Child Support Division and its partners have increased collections so far this state fiscal year by 13.5% over last state fiscal year. From July 2003 through December 2003, more than \$193 million in child support payments were collected. During that same period last year, \$170 million in payments were collected.

Collections have been increasing steadily for several years. The increase in collections can be attributed in large part to enforcement tools, such as administrative wage assignments, liens, license revocation, tax intercept, modification of support orders and passport denials.

The number of child support cases with orders is also on the rise. Without orders, there would be no child support payment. This figure is up 3.3% in December 2003, over December 2002. There are currently 218,181 cases with support orders. The Child Support Division and its partners are working to establish orders for those children without existing orders. Identifying and finding the missing parent and establishing paternity are keys to establishing orders.

For more information on the Child Support Program, visit the Department of Human Services website at: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/child-support.htm>

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